

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 01307 140559Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 PM-05 NSC-05 USIA-06 OPR-02
PA-01 SS-15 SY-05 A-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
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P R 131211Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2224
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 1307

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

USNMR SHAPE FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NL
SUBJECT: STATE SECRETARY VAN EEKELEN REQUESTS WASHINGTON
APPOINTMENTS

1. DEFENSE STATE SECRETARY VAN EEKELEN, WHO LATE LAST WEEK
WAS RECONFIRMED IN HIS POSITION BY NEW DUTCH DEFENSE MINISTER
SCHOLTEN, CALLED TO SAY HE WILL BE IN US TWICE IN APRIL AND
HOPES TO AVAIL HIMSELF OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO CALL ON DEFENSE
OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS SOME OF THE THEMES WHICH WERE ON THE
AGENDA FOR THE SCHEDULED VISIT OF MOD KRUISINGA, WHICH WAS
CONCELED UPON THE LATTER'S RESIGNATION.

2. VAN EEKELEN WILL BE IN BALTIMORE APRIL 1-2 FOR EUROPEAN-
AMERICAN WORKSHOP AND PRINCETON APRIL 21-23 TO ATTEND BILDER-
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BERG CONFERENCE. HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE EITHER JUST BEFORE OR
AFTER EITHER OR BOTH OF THESE MEETINGS.

3. AMONG THE PERSONS VAN EEKELEN WOULD LIKE TO SEE HE
SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED UNDER SECRETARIES OF ARMY, NAVY AND
AIR FORCE, UNDER SECRETARY PERRY (DDR & E) AND MAJOR GENERAL
GRAVES (DSAA). HINTING AT THE LONG-STANDING RIVALRY BETWEEN

FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTRIES IN THE HAGUE WHICH, HE OBSERVED, MADE MFA LOOK WITH DEEP MISGIVINGS ON DEFENSE OFFICIALS CALLING ON THE STATE DEPARTMENT, VAN EEKELEN EXPRESSED HOPE NEVERTHELESS TO HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST AS WELL AS DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GOODBY. TO GET AROUND THE HAGUE'S SENSITIVITIES VAN EEKELEN THOUGHT BEST WAY WOULD BE FOR HIM TO HAVE THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON INVITE THESE STATE OFFICIALS FOR SOCIAL MEETING WITH VAN EEKELEN.

4. IN MAKING REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENTS, VAN EEKELEN EXPLAINED THAT NEW DUTCH DEFENSE MINISTER HAS DECIDED TO LIMIT FOREIGN TRAVEL TO THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM DURING HIS FIRST MONTHS IN OFFICE AND HAS ASKED VAN EEKELEN TO FILL IN. VAN EEKELEN NOTED THAT NUMBER OF DEFENSE ISSUES ARE NOW FAST MATURING--NOTABLY ASW AIRCRAFT AND TANK REPLACEMENT--AND THAT HE WISHES TO PICK UP SLACK CAUSED BY THE CANCELLATION OF KRUISINGA VISIT. HE WOULD ALSO SPECIFICALLY LIKE TO COVER US-NETHERLANDS ARMS PRODUCTION RELATIONS AND POSSIBLE BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

5. COMMENT: AS A KEY FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL, VAN EEKELEN HAS BEEN WELL KNOWN TO US OFFICIALS DEALING WITH NATO ISSUES. IN HIS NEW FUNCTION HE CARRIES MAJOR POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR DUTCH DEFENSE DECISIONS IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS. ACCORDINGLY, WE WARMLY SUPPORT HIS REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENTS AND RECOMMEND THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO COVER NOT JUST THOSE ISSUES WHICH HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS BUT ALSO THOSE WHICH

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US SIDE WOULD HAVE RAISED HAD THE KRUISINGA VISIT PROCEEDED AS SCHEDULED. SINCE FIRST VAN EEKELEN TRIP TO US IS LESS THAN A MONTH AWAY, WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY INDICATION OF POSSIBLE WASHINGTON APPOINTMENTS.

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